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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: Darin GERLACH, et al.  
SERIAL NO.: 10/673,833 Group Art Unit: 3733  
FILED: September 29, 2003 EXAMINER: Philogene, Pedro  
FOR: BONE PLATES AND BONE PLATE ASSEMBLIES

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 39262/287702  
(01-31-0802)

DATE: August 10, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

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Sir:

Please enter the following amendments to the claims and consider the following remarks in response to the Office Action mailed May 15, 2006 (the "Action").

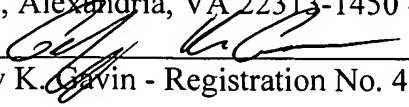
**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 10, 2006.

  
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Geoffrey K. Gavin - Registration No. 47,591